dtcd news

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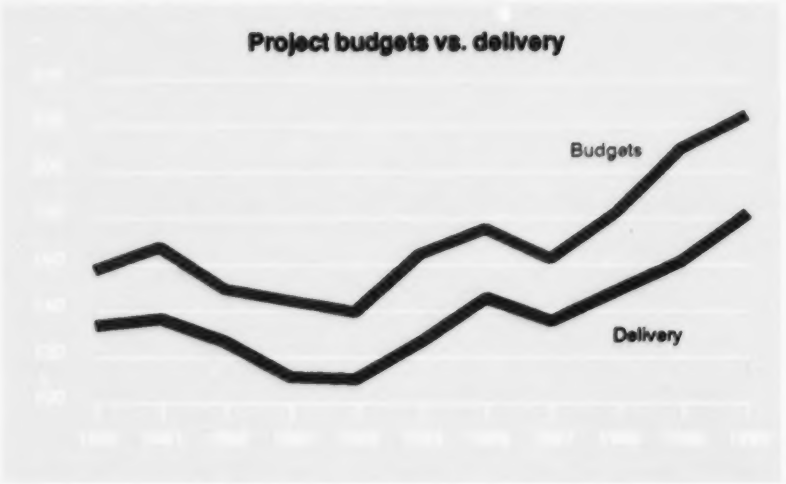
Third year of growth for UNDTCD



The Department's performance in 1990 was highlighted by growth for the third straight year, with expenditures on UNDTCD-executed projects rising to some $182 million from roughly $162 million in 1989.

The Department's largest programme remained natural resources and energy. Within this programme, expenditures in the water, minerals and infrastructure sectors remained relatively stable, while energy sector delivery rose by some $7 million. The public administration and finance programme also grew in 1990. As in recent years, development planning was the largest single sector of UNDTCD activity.

Human resources development remained the main thrust of the Department's work in the dozen substantive sectors it covers. In particular, UNDTCD called upon its multidisciplinary expertise, which covers a dozen substantive sectors, to strengthen national capacities in light of legislative mandates.

Priority to Africa

With roughly 42 per cent of UNDTCD delivery in 1990, Africa was again the region with the largest programme. The main objectives of work in Africa remained national capacity building in UNDTCD fields of activity and overall human resources development.

UNDTCD continued activities in Namibia in 1990, fielding missions in different sectors to determine the new nation's technical cooperation requirement. In sub-Saharan Africa, national capacities were strengthened in relation to debt management, public sector investment programming, economic and financial management and monitoring and managing structural adjustment programmes. In response to the keen interest of several African countries in exploiting their natural resources for economic and social development, UNDTCD technical cooperation helped improve their legislative frameworks and upgrade their natural resources management and planning capacities.

Statistics was another significant area of work in Africa. As part of the 1990 round of censuses, UNDTCD helped several African countries carry out censuses and analyze the data gathered. In addition, a special effort was made to train census personnel in sub-Saharan countries.

Regular Programme activities

In meeting new needs, UNDTCD work carried out under the United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation played a special role. Under this modest but flexibly managed programme, catalytic inputs with a multiplier effect were used to strengthen national capacities through innovative training, highly specialized advisory services and experimental field projects. In 1990 these activities were characterized by several broad trends.

For example, multidisciplinary advice related to overall development planning and policies was increasingly sought by developing country governments. Responding to such requests, UNDTCD helped prepare donors round tables and NatCAP exercises in Africa. UNDTCD also initiated work on guidelines for technical cooperation in devel-

[*See* **Third year** *on page 8*]

Under-Secretary-General Xie departs

Mr. Xie Qimei, who has led UNDTCD since 1985 as Under-Secretary-General, recently returned to his government service in China.

Mr. Xie's managerial skills and sound judgement were critical to the revitalization of the Department. When he came to UNDTCD, it was facing a deficit and had undergone a streamlining process entailing the loss of a third of its staff.

Under his leadership, UNDTCD achieved a turnaround in both performance and finances. In addition, Mr. Xie's firm and principled commitment to multilateral technical cooperation, and the measured and articulate positions he took at high-level United Nations meetings earned him wide respect in the Organization.

In a letter accepting Mr. Xie's resignation, United Nations Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar noted:

"As you prepere to return to your country , I want you to know how much I, and all of your colleagues here, have appreciated the remarkable manner in which you have led the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development for over half a decade. In a period which saw severe resource constraints affecting the Organization as a whole, your Department was able to sustain a most distinguished record of growth and accomplishment in the cause of economic and social development. Countless men, women and children have been the beneficiaries. I should like to express my gratitude to you in this regard." ■

Ji Chaozhu heads UNDTCD

Mr. Ji Chaozhu has been appointed as the new Under-Secretary-General for Technical Cooperation for Development.

Mr. Ji, born in Shanxi Province, China, on 30 July 1929, has been a witness of and actor in the landmark events of Chinese foreign relations over the past four decades.

Most recently, he has been China's Ambassador to the United Kingdom, a post held since 1987. From 1985 to 1987 Mr. Ji was Ambassador to Fiji and, concurrently, to Kiribati and Vanuatu. He served as Minister Counsellor at China's Embassy to the United States from 1982 to 1985.

From 1975 to 1979, Mr. Ji was Deputy Director, Department of International Organizations and Conferences, and later, Deputy Director, Department of American and Oceanic Affairs, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He was Counsellor of the Liaison Office of China to the United States from 1973 to 1975.

From 1954 to 1973 Mr. Ji served as Officer and Deputy Director of the Department of Interpretation and Translation at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and was chief interpreter for Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, Zhou Enlai, Chen Yi and other State leaders of his country. From 1952 to 1954 he was a member of the Chinese delegation to the Korean Armistice Negotiations.

Mr. Ji participated in the work of the Chinese delegation to the Geneva Conference in 1954 and the Conference of Asian and African States in Bandung in 1955, and was a member of the Chinese delegation to the Geneva Conference on Laos held in 1961-1962.

He attended Harvard University from 1948 to 1950, and Qinghua University in China from 1950 to 1952, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. ■

The new Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Ji Chaozhu

Women in development

Fourteen developing country professionals gathered in Hungary from 13 to 23 November for an intensive 10 day training course in Women in Development (WID). The fourth annual International Training Workshop on Microcomputer Applications for Population and Development Planning was organized by the Population Branch of UNDTCD and the Central Statistical Office of the Government of Hungary. All the participants were either heads of WID units or attached to offices concerned with women's policy issues in their countries.

The workshop series has been structured so that substantive material is presented during morning sessions in a lecture format with break-out sessions for discussion. The afternoon is devoted to small group computer sessions.

WID model

An important part of this workshop was training in a new microcomputer-based model developed by the Population Branch. The United Nations Women in Development Model (UNWID) is a household or micro model which focuses on women's activities in rural agrarian households. In its current form, this model is a valuable sensitizing tool for policy makers.

It is based on four interrelated components: allocation of time, agricultural production, cash income and household size. Users of the model manipulate the exogenous variables, which represent various policy interventions, to optimize household welfare. Such variables include level of education, share of control of women's income, access to capital, share of men's income going to the home, access to family planning services, rate of market wage, percentage of agricultural time spent on own crops, prices of agricultural products, share of agricultural products marketed for cash, amount of land, total amount of time available.

The main endogenous variables are agricultural output, cash income, time spent on agricultural production, time spent on market employment, time spent on non-crop home work, family size, and household welfare index.

While the relationships built into the model are based on field observations and the parameters used are typical of many developing countries, in its present stage UNWID is not based directly on empirical country data and does not refer to women's role in any particular

[*See* **WID** *on page 6*]

Cross-sectoral drilling centre for India

With UNDTCD technical assistance and UNDP funding, a project in India is establishing the country's first National Drilling Training Centre. Located at Nagpur, the centre is being set up under the auspices of the Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) to provide formal training to personnel in disciplines related to mineral, water and geotechnical drilling.

Gap filled

The new centre fills an important gap, as until now no institution has provided formal training in drilling technologies in India. Most drilling supervisors and technicians have in fact acquired their professional skills after years of practical work. Moreover, drilling productivity in India is relatively low: 1,500-2,000 metres per person yearly, compared to international standards of 5,000-6,000 metres.

The project, begun in June 1989 and running until April 1992, aims to increase drilling productivity by providing training for those already engaged in drilling. No college degree is required for trainees. The centre trains drilling engineers, supervisors and technicians, conducts refresher courses for in-service personnel and provides R & D and testing facilities for drilling machinery equipment. To date, the Nagpur centre has trained close to 400 people.

Once firmly established, the new centre will also be able to provide training for English-speaking drilling technicians and supervisory personnel from other developing countries in the region. In addition, the centre's programmes will include environmental management techniques to ensure protection of the environment during exploration stages.

Minerals

The creation of the National Drilling Training Centre responds to an acute need for upgraded and formal training in drilling techniques in all three sectors. In mineral exploration, a main challenge today is that many new mineral discoveries are located well below the surface. Despite significant progress in the development of geophysical and geochemical methods of locating buried mineral deposits, they must still be identified by drilling.

In most cases, the depth and position of these deposits require steep inclined or directional drilling using special mud circulation for hole stabilization and in-the-hole tools to control direction. Such specialized drilling activities require expertise and technologies which have until now been unavailable to the average Indian driller.

Water

In relation to water well drilling, the main challenge is the insufficient number of drillers and specialized maintenance personnel to fill the demand for exploration, irrigation and drinking water wells. With regard to geotechnical drilling, there are currently some 200 drills engaged in this work in India.

However, civil and soil engineers need the support of skilled drillers with solid theoretical as well practical training in core drilling and soil sampling for the design of the foundations and substructures of high-rise buildings, roads, bridges and dam sites. The lack of drilling personnel with such theoretical grounding has caused serious difficulties in this sector. ■

Geologist in Madras conducting a test on a bore hole.

Drilling crew operating a rotary drilling rig

READEX FICHE

Computerizing government accounting

A recent workshop in Malta trained participants in the fundamentals of government accounting and financial management systems, and in the benefits of and strategic approaches to automating such systems. The Interregional Workshop on Computerization of Government Accounting in Developing Countries, was organized by UNDTCD and hosted by the Management Systems Unit of the Office of the Prime Minister of Malta from 13-21 November 1990.

Participants came from 14 countries, primarily in Africa but also from eastern Europe, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean. Most occupied senior positions in either their government's financial administration or electronic data processing management.

The workshop's 28 sessions covered case studies, the presentation of papers on participants' own country experience, recent developments in information technology, software demonstrations and background on accounting pertinent to computerization.

Cautious approach

Discussions on practical aspects of management information systems in developing countries highlighted the fact that despite the availability of inexpensive hardware and software in recent years, many countries have been hesitant about introducing financial management computerization programmes. This caution has been due to factors such as negative experiences with breakdowns of mainframe and mid-sized computers, with inadequately trained staff or staff which once trained abandons the public for the private sector, with the vast and often bewildering variety of hardware and software options generated by rapid technological change, and with the unrealistic time estimates for computerization provided by consultants and suppliers. There is also the suspicion that computers will replace staff. As a result, in most developing countries the utilization rate of existing computer facilities is hardly more than half, and in some, only 10 per cent.

Three scenarios

Three developing countries provided fairly in-depth presentations of their own experiences with computerization at this workshop. The first was Malta, where computers have been used in the public sector since the 1950s, but only now is a comprehensive computerization strategy being developed and implemented. The second case study was Netherlands Antilles, which has in recent years taken a global-analysis-and-planning approach. At the opposite pole, Papua New Guinea's approach has been to computerize the existing manual government accounting system, as is, at least as a first phase. Participants discussed the issues raised by and the pros and cons of all these cases.

A key issue explored at the workshop concerned the readymade, commercial government accounting software available to developing countries. Many participants indicated that while its existence was in some senses a convenience, it usually proved inappropriate to meet their specific needs.

Adaptable software

Participants felt their needs would be better met if they had access to a software package for government accounting as a common basis for system developers in developing countries. It could be an 80 per cent readymade but still very flexible package. Such flexibility would make it possible to tailor it to the needs of different developing country governments. In conclusion, the workshop recommended that such a package be developed and made available to them by UNDTCD, and subsequently be modified and applied on a country-by-country basis.

Following the workshop, the Development Administration Division of UNDTCD has taken steps to get funding for such a packaged accounting software (PACSO). It has also recently developed a Guide for Computerization of Government Accounting in Developing Countries, which was a basic reference for the workshop in Malta. The complete workshop report (TCD/SEM 91/1) was distributed to participants and is available from UNDTCD. ■

New PopMap software

Need a computerized map pinpointing clinics or schools or storehouses? A map showing fertility rates, child mortality or urbanization rates? Streets and houses in an enumeration district? Rivers and routes in regions, provinces or cities?

A new software program developed by the Vietnam Institute of Computer Science for the UNFPA-funded Software Development Project now enables users to prepare such maps. The new program developed under this UNDTCD-executed project can provide a wide variety of thematic maps for the use of developing country demographers, statisticians, population development planners and decision-makers in all fields who have little or no prior computer background or experience in database, graphics and map manipulation.

Example applications

The menu-driven PopMap comes with two example applications aimed at familiarizing users with the capacities and potential of the software and encouraging them to prepare maps and data suited to their particular needs.

The first is a world level application which contains base maps of some 150 countries, as well as regional, subregional and global maps. In addition, it provides a data base of global socio-economic data prepared by the Population Division of the United Nations.

The second is a more detailed application providing four levels of maps of Vietnam (country, region, sub-region and province), with various demographic indicators, three types of facilities and individual facility characteristics.

Three modules

PopMap is comprised of three modules. DatEd allows users to create new applications or modify existing ones and to enter, update, or import statistical and other data.

MapEd is a map editor for entering map outlines, boundaries, borders, rivers, transport routes and facility locations. With MapEd, users can prepare their own base maps and locational data for population activities and other relevant facilities by using the keyboard, a mouse or a digitizer.

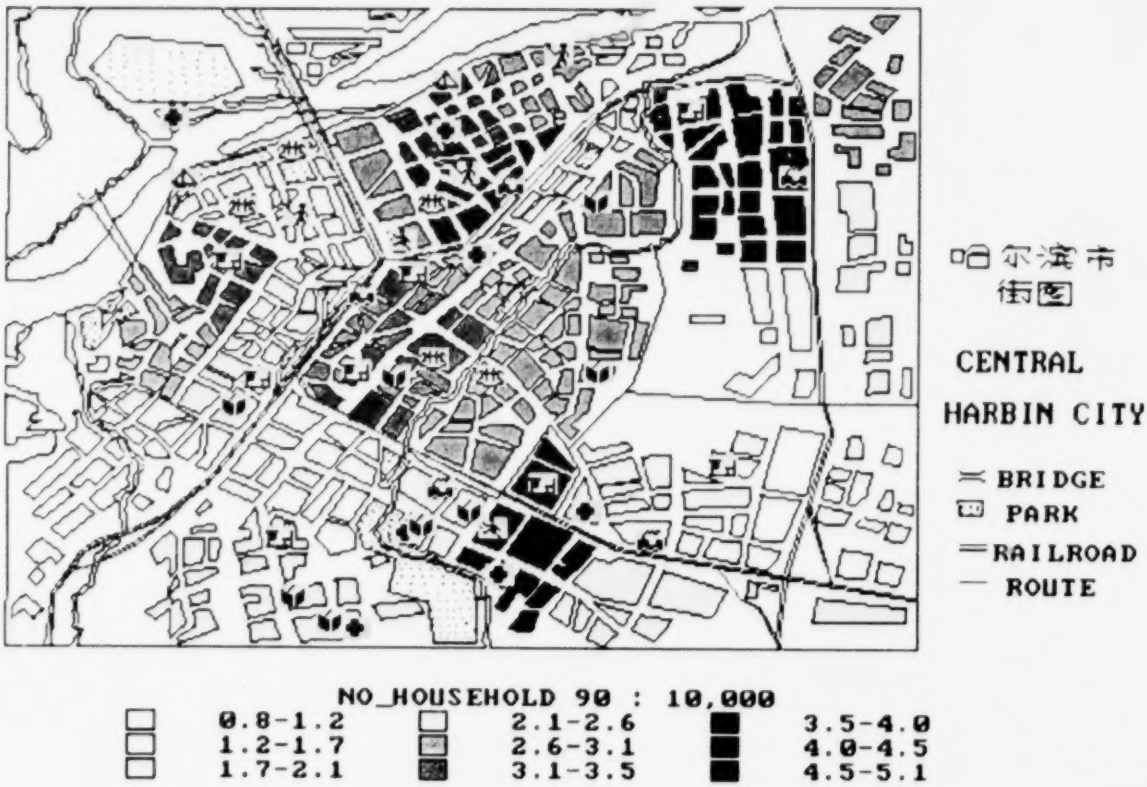
The third module, the PopMap system, allows users to retrieve data on the target geographic area and to examine it as a simple spreadsheet, in a variety of graphs or in mapped form.

Versatility

The developers of PopMap stress that while it was created to support population activities, it is a versatile program which can be used for planning and presentation purposes in many other sectors. Now undergoing final testing, PopMap will soon be available free of charge to UNFPA-supported projects and institutions.

To order, write to: Project Coordinator, Software and Support for Population Data Processing, UNDTCD, United Nations, Room DC2-1570, New York, New York 10017, U.S.A. ■

Map of the downtown area of a city in north China with icons indicating various facilities.



Water seminar in Venezuela

There are important ways, other than keeping costs of projects down and requiring fees for water-related services, to promote social investment in water resources development. Identifying some of these ways was a main purpose of the Interregional Seminar on the Mobilization of Resources of Optimal Water Development, Allocation and Conservation, held in Mérida, Venezuela, from 3-7 December 1990.

The seminar brought together 20 participants from Spanish and Portuguese speaking developing countries, and four consultants provided background papers. A main focus was on the optimal use of water in relation to services such as drinking water, irrigation and sanitation. Successful cases of water resources development and conservation were reviewed, and participants shared a wide range of their country experiences in this regard.

The seminar recommended that developing countries move away from segmented management of water resources which is driven by special interests and move towards unified water resources agencies which plan and manage surface and ground water quality and quantity. For such a system to work, the seminar called for accurate registration and recording of water supplies and rights, taking into account the decentralized character of water management at the operational level. Under such a management system, planning should result from a consensus between the administration and water users.

The seminar also recommended that governments formulate explicit criteria and standards for the evaluation of the economic, environmental and social impact of water programmes and projects.

The need to grant adequate executive powers to water management agencies was acknowledged, as well as the need to grant stable water rights. Private as well as public participation in water quality control was urged.

Finally, the seminar recommended that all countries formulate comprehensive water legislation and adequate norms for water quality control.

A technical publication containing the meeting proceedings and recommendations is now being prepared by UNDTCD. ■

[*from* **WID** *on page 2*]

country. Until the results of the model are empirically verified, therefore, its use will be as a teaching tool to answer such questions as, Will women's income go up or down as their access to education changes? Will it change more than it would with a similar policy not specifically targeted at women?

In addition to introducing this new model, the lectures covered such topics as setting specific goals for women in development, integrating women's issues into development policies and plans, the need for the analysis and presentation of statistics on women, sources of data on women's role in development, improved content, measurement, concepts and classifications and the activities of the United Nations Statistical Office.

Finally, participants shared and discussed country experiences in the WID field in break-out sessions. Repeatedly, similar concerns surfaced. Perhaps the most important of these was that WID units in most of the governments represented at this workshop have been placed in powerless positions within the government bureaucracy. With WID offices outside important decision-making networks, participants felt that few objectives had been achieved. ■

Regional planning in Africa

As part of the joint UNDTCD/Japan/Africa Initiative, a workshop was held in Dakar, Senegal from 4-8 March 1991 for participants from 22 francophone African countries to share experiences, discuss problems and seek new approaches to the spatial aspects of development planning and economic management.

Guidelines

Specifically, guidelines were discussed for the plan d'amenagement du territoire, a longterm approach to spatial planning which entails measures aimed at ensuring the balanced development of all regions of a country through better distribution of population and activities.

Medium-term integrated investment programmes were also presented and discussed. Such programmes address specific regional and local issues at the national level and involve the Government, the private sector and NGOs.

Economic information systems and models for project selection at the national, regional and local levels were presented, as were models for management of local public finance. The latter link the resources of local communities to aid flows and investment programmes.

The workshop encouraged institutions and technical professionals from the two different development planning camps in Africa, "amenagement du territoire" and regional planning, to work together in regional analysis, planning and programming.

New techniques

On another front, it helped technical personnel discouraged by the lack of traditional statistics in Africa become aware of new techniques such as multicriteria analysis. This method, which relies on data not in the form of such statistics, can be adapted to local needs and conditions.

Finally, presentations by participants made it clear that many developing countries have now reached the stage where technical tools, such as planning models and information systems, can be built and managed by them. ■

New employment forecasting model

In 1990 the Development Planning Advisory Services Branch of UNDTCD has helped the Government of Senegal develop a planning model to forecast expenditures in public sector wages. Programmes to improve the national labour statistics supporting this model were also developed.

The model, known by its French acronym MAS (modèle de l'administration du Sénégal), is proving useful in both designing and monitoring structural adjustment policies. It enables the government to study public employment in terms of the total amount of salaries and the number of people employed by both state and parastatal entities. Taking into account the budget for public sector wages, as well as retirements and other staff separations, the MAS model calculates the funds still available for new recruitments, promotions and salary increases. With this model it is also possible to establish different scenarios of changes in the total amount of salaries and the number of public employees.

New mining code for Guinea-Bissau

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau, with a per capita income of under $200, is one of the poorest developing countries. It exports cashew nuts, peanuts, fish and timber, but lacks economic metal deposits, coal and oil.

Construction materials currently represent the only mineral exploitation activity in Guinea-Bissau. In 1989, 78 per cent of this production was dolerites, 12 was clay, 8 per cent laterites and 3 per cent sand. Foreign engineering companies are responsible for 90 per cent of this activity, which in 1989 was valued at $6 million.

In the past, the institutional and legal frameworks promoting and monitoring mineral exploitation have been weak. Addressing this problem, a recently concluded project executed by DTCD and funded by UNDP has helped Guinea-Bissau strengthen both its institutional and its legal support for mineral resources development.

With technical assistance from DTCD, the national bureau of geology and mines (DGGM) has been strengthened and restructured. It has been divided into two departments, the first in charge of geology and exploration,

Dolerite crusher.

Dolerite, used in construction and for ornamental purposes (below), comprises 78 per cent of mineral expoitation in Guinea-Bissau.

the second dealing with mining and mineral production and control. In addition, three units were set up for the north, south and eastern regions. The project also established a documentation centre containing all the books, reports, maps and aerial photography related to the country's mineral resources. In addition, the Government was helped to carry out a mineral inventory on a computerized data base system covering rock and industrial minerals, black sands and gold.

A major contribution of the project was the help it provided Guinea-Bissau in the formulation of the country's first Mining Code. Approved in July 1990, the new code is compatible with existing legislation regulating quarry development as well as existing investment codes.

An innovative feature of this code is that it creates a National Mining Fund, the resources of which will be obtained by taxes collected on mining activities. The fund will finance mineral resources development activities of the DGGM. The code also provides a model contract between the Government and foreign investors interested in mining prospection and exploration.

Finally, the project has provided training to eight national geologists in the fields of mineral economics, exploration methods, geophysics applied to exploration, documentation management and sample organization. ■

[*from* **Third year** *on page 1*]

opment planning, based on case studies being carried out by national experts.

Another focus of work carried out under the Regular Programme related to the special needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). At the request of the UNCTAD Secretariat, the Department helped several countries prepare their background documentation to the Second United Nations Conference on LDCs and it is helping governments follow up on recommendations from the Conference. Work also proceeded on econometric and data bank models for planning in LDCs.

Specialized training

In response to the demand for specialized training in priority areas, technical workshops were held in 1990 in such fields as water development and conservation, computerized mineral title management, land management, digital cartographic data evaluation, and electrification and power generation. In addition, in 1990 work started on training activities in the process aspects of implementing United Nations technical cooperation projects, such as recruitment, procurement, fellowships and financial management.

To enhance national capacities for development administration, UNDTCD organized workshops on the computerization of government accounting and on improved revenue administration, and worked on country case studies on the size and cost of Africa's civil service. Training packages to upgrade the policy development capacities of the civil service, with special attention to increasing the role of women in public management, were also prepared.

In the area of social development, advisory services were provided in social policy and development, crime prevention and criminal justice. Policy-making related to the special needs of the disabled was the focus of a meeting organized on national disability machinery, and work began on a workshop to focus on establishing developing country capacities to assemble and use disability statistics.

The promotion of technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) continued to be a main feature of all training under the Regular Programme. Interregional seminars and workshops provided a forum for exchanges of technical experience and expertise in many fields.

Environmental action plan

An important development for the Department during 1990 was the formulation of an internal action plan to help developing countries promote environmentally sound development through the programmes and projects receiving UNDTCD assistance. Under this plan, UNDTCD will provide technical cooperation enabling countries to establish environmental standards and regulations in the sectors of the Department's competance and to ensure that these standards are reflected in projects.

At their request, UNDTCD will also be helping developing country governments to select and to acquire environmentally sound technologies and to train national staff in environmental policy development, implementation and monitoring.

Women

Work in various sectors focused on increased involvement of women in programme formulation and management and in administrative decision-making. Efforts were also made to increase the access of women to credit in rural and urban settings and to integrate women's issues in development policies and plans.

UNDTCD collaborated with the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in the production of training modules in the water sector. Work also advanced on the improvement of statistics on women and the employment of female experts for non-traditional assignments, such as geologists, civil engineers and transport planners.

Finally, UNDTCD sought to institutionalize to a far greater extent the inclusion of elements specifically related to women in all projects, including in project budgets.

Impetus and coordination of these and other efforts to promote women's full integration into the development process was provided by the Department's Task Force on Women in Development (WID). Established in 1982 and the oldest such entity in the United Nations system, the WID Task Force has ten members whose expertise covers all the Department's substantive areas of competence, permitting it to pursue multidisciplinary approaches to the promotion of WID.

Effectiveness

The identification of the means to increase the Department's effectiveness remained a priority in 1990. Areas of scrutiny included the review of data from the monthly monitoring reports for analysis and resolution of implementation problems, extended use of computerized tracking systems and further steps in the development of related management information assistance and improved communications, especially between the Department and developing countries. ■

Update:
Interregional workshops/seminars

15-19 April, Ecuador
Use of microcomputers in energy planning

13-16 May, Brazil
Metropolitan management

6-12 June, China
Energy and Environment in the Development Process

17-21 June, Ghana
Size and cost of civil service in Africa

24-28 June, Germany
The role of public administration in environmental management

25-28 June, Germany
International Roundtable on Mining and the Environment

Correction

In the last issue of dtcd news a seminar was listed twice in the box on page 5. The interregional seminar on Environmental Aspects of Water Resources Development will be held in Bulgaria in October 1991.

To our readers:

Your contributions, letters and views are welcome. Write to:

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